Empanelment of Hospitals by Air India India

1376 SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uma Nursing Home at Mahakali, Bombay is on the panel of Air India for its employees;

(b) what are the criteria laid down for empanelment of hospitals on Air India panel in a metropolitan city and whether Uma Nursing Home meets such criteria;

(c) whether there is any other bigger hospital already on Air-India panel in the vicinity of Uma Nursing Home at the time of the latter's empanelment; and

(d) if so, what additional facilities Uma Nursing Home offers for its having considered for empanelment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Comprehensive health care to the employees near their place of residence is the main criteria in empanelling hospitals etc. Availability of minimum infrastructural facilities like services of doctors from various disciplines, basic facilities like laboratory and radiology for investigation, facilities for planned and emergency surgical care like operation theatre are the other criteria for empanelment of hospitals/nursing homes. By and large, Uma Nursing Home meets these criteria.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, Despite reservation of beds exclusively for Air India employees at major hospitals, at times, Air India find it very difficult to secure beds for the employees as per their entitlement, due to higher tariffs in major hospitals. The proprietor of Uma Maternity Nursing Home is a qualified practising Obstetrician and Gynaecologist which is a help to pregnant female employees especially for Anti Natal Care and confinement. Established hospitals in the locality compulsorily need prior registration which is not the case with personally-owned Nursing Homes like Uma Nursing Home Pregnant Air India staff without other medical problems generally prefer to go to smaller nursing Homes near their residence rather than to a major hospital.

Traffic Carriage by Foreign Airlines

1377 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present 65% of the out bound air traffic of the country is being carried away by foreign airlines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country's air traffic is likely to increase by about 7.2% in the second half of this decade, and by 6.2% in Asia Pacific travel; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have already taken or propose to take to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the forecasts given by International Airports Authority of India, the passenger traffic through the five international airports in India is likely to increase by 6.8% in the second half of the decade. As regards Asia and Pacific Region, the International scheduled passenger traffic is expected to register an average annual growth rate of 8.5% as per ICAO air traffic forecasts for the year 2001.